



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch
Superintendent

Career and Technical Educational Informational Update

1. Perkins Applications

- a. All initial Perkins Applications have been reviewed and sent back to schools for Budget Amendments and changes requested by the Program Specialists.
- b. Please ensure that the person responsible for your Perkins Grant reviews the Comment Sheet completed by the OPI Program Specialist.
- c. Please feel free to contact your OPI Program Specialist with any questions on gaining final approval of your 2007-08 Carl Perkins Grant Application.

Diana Fiedler **444-7991**
Renee Harris **444-2059**

Brad King **444-4451**
Don Michalsky **444-4452**

2. Big Sky Pathways (Programs of Study)

- a. I have attached two power point presentations that together begin to explain the changes in the Carl Perkins Grant requirements and Montana's plan to address all the new requirements as well as how the educators of Montana will be able to take advantage of the new opportunities that the new Perkins Act presents.
- b. At the Fall 2007 Montana Association of Career and Technical Education's (MACTE) Conference the OPI Specialists along with their OCHE counterparts will be presenting to all the CTE Teacher's Divisions and Content Areas. These presentations will:
 1. Build a common understanding of terms
 2. Build a common understanding of Big Sky Pathways
 3. Begin the discussion of what Pathways need to be developed in each career field in Montana.
 4. Report on the progress in developing closer relations with the Consortium for Educational Advancement (Old Tech Prep)
 5. Begin to engage the Educational Field in the development of the Big Sky Pathways.

We highly encourage you to send as many of your CTE Teachers to this conference as it will be the beginning of an our new Professional Development model that ensures High Quality, Sustainability, Intensive and Classroom Based that are not one-day or short term workshops or conferences. In addition, I am planning to present at the MASS and MASSP Spring conferences to continue to update you and ask for your input as we progress towards implementation.

"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."



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- c. In accordance with the Carl D. Perkins Act of 2006 each school that receives Perkins Funds is required to implement a "Program of Study" by the fall of 2008. **Big Sky Pathways** is Montana's answer to this mandate. In cooperation with Secondary and Post Secondary Educators for each Career Field, Secondary and Post Secondary School Administrators, Business and Labor Interests, OCHE and the Consortium of Educational Advancement (CEA) (Old Tech Prep), OPI has begun the development of specific pathways that all school will be able to adapt to their individual situation and implement by the fall of 2008.
- d. The projected completion of the development of the Big Sky Pathways will be the Spring of 2008. In order to develop the expertise in the implementation of the developed pathways, a Big Sky Institute is being planned for the Summer of 2008. This institute will provide Administrators, and Teachers the skills and tools to implement at least one Big Sky Pathway in the Fall of 2008.

This is an era of opportunity to better serve the students of Montana in their quest to fulfill their dreams and hopes for a future in which they are able to prepare themselves for the career they wish to direct their passions.

Thank you for your attention to this material. I hope that it provides you with a basis of understanding so that you and your school may begin this exciting journey.